

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Agenda Item C**  
**September 18, 2000**

---

The past two months have been extremely busy as we prepare for the fall and the beginning of a new academic year. The Council staff has been extremely active in helping to get the Kentucky Innovation Commission started. Members of the commission have been named and it held its first meeting September 7. The search for a commissioner is in its final stages.

Partly supported by funds you allocated at the July meeting as part of the adult education initiative, Kentucky began the Kentucky Institute for Family Literacy. The institute is an initiative of the Cabinet for Workforce Development, the Cabinet for Families and Children, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Council on Postsecondary Education. Its fiscal agent is the National Center for Family Literacy. It will be a public-private partnership, with strong support from Verizon (formerly GTE) and the Tapestry Foundation. A director will be named shortly.

Kentucky's efforts to develop the knowledge-based component of its economy and to change and improve postsecondary education were featured at a National Governors' Association seminar for chiefs-of-staffs and senior policy advisors to the nation's governors. State Budget Director Jim Ramsey, Daniel Rabuzzi, and I made presentations that sparked lively discussion. Council member Merl Hackbart was a member of the seminar and helped us present the Kentucky story.

We have been working on performance indicators, both with institutional representatives and with experts around the country. The staff proposal will be presented at your meetings in February and March. In addition, several of us have been deeply involved in preparing for a review of operating and capital budget procedures, recommended by Chair Charles Whitehead to the Strategic Committee on Postsecondary Education when it met September 6.

We have been involved in planning four conferences. The first, of course, is the annual conference on trusteeship. The following week, we will hold a diversity conference in Louisville. Then, in early October, we are sponsoring a special workshop on teacher education hosted by Eastern Kentucky University. We have invited deans of arts and sciences and of education to join with several national presenters as we consider the thesis that preparing teachers is a responsibility of the entire university. The chief academic officers of Kentucky's public and private institutions will hold a joint meeting in conjunction with this workshop. Finally, we are planning a workshop on student retention to be held immediately following your November meeting at Morehead State University. As you know, improving student retention is a major goal of the Council and the colleges and universities.

We have committed to yet another conference, this one on ways to combat alcohol abuse. Planning is just beginning.

I am pleased to announce two new staff appointments. Melissa McGinley joins us from the Cabinet for Workforce Development. She will work in academic affairs and possibly in adult education. Ben Boggs joins us from the University of Virginia. He probably will have responsibilities in adult education, knowledge-based economy, and academic affairs. Both are bright and competent professionals. I know you will enjoy working with them.